

Great Lakes States to conduct a study on the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. The legislation specifically directs the agencies to study the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a means to eradicate the invasive species in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to explore all possibilities to effectively eliminate the threat that this dangerous species poses to our Nation's most precious natural resource.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA KUJAWA
OF WEEKI WACHEE, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Kujawa of Hernando County, Florida. Barbara will do something later this year that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate her 100th birthday.

Barbara was born December 5, 1909 in Ironwood, Michigan. After attending schools in Detroit at St. Stanislaus and Resurrection schools, Barbara went on to work as an assembly line worker. Happily married to Aloysius Kujawa, she had four wonderful children, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren.

Her proudest moments were seeing all of her children get married and the happiest moment was when she gave birth to her daughter. Growing up in Michigan, some of her fondest childhood memories are of sledding on a big hill in Grand Rapids with her cousins and walking out on the ice to see her father ice fish.

Moving to Hernando County in the 1980's because it was a nice place to live, Barbara said the things she likes most about Weeki Wachee are that it's peaceful and quiet. Today, reading gives Barbara the most pleasure. If she could live her life over, Barbara would not have gotten married but would have traveled the world and made sure she had gotten a better education. Her advice to young people today is to work hard, be honest, don't drink or do drugs, and honor your parents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Barbara Kujawa for reaching her 100th birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as her.

HONORING ALEXANDER THOMAS
TRITICO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Thomas Tritico of Kansas City, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Thomas Tritico for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
AND SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT
PRESTON R. MEDLEY, UNITED
STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sergeant Preston Medley, United States Army. Sergeant Medley was killed in action on October 14, 2008 while serving our nation in Qazi Bandeh, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sergeant Medley was assigned to D Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

A 2003 graduate of Baker High School, Preston played football and was involved in the broadcasting program. "He was the energetic, joyful kind of person that helped make our program successful," one teacher said. After his mother passed away in 2005, Preston decided he wanted to serve this nation and joined the Army. He will now go to his eternal resting place next to his mother in the Pyron Chapel Cemetery in Baker, Florida.

While Preston was serving on active duty at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, he met his beautiful wife, Sarah, who was a fellow Soldier. Sarah gave birth to their daughter, Raelynn, in September 2007 and gave birth to their son, Preston Ray Medley Jr. on December 8, 2008. Preston's name, his fighting spirit and his caring soul will continue to live on through Raelynn and Preston, Jr.

I am always reminded of the greatness of our country by the patriotism of those like Preston and the dedication of our military families like Sarah and the Medley family. We have an all-volunteer military and continue to ask our sons and daughters to travel to far-away lands to fight for our freedom. Men and women like Preston Medley continue to answer the call.

The people of Northwest Florida have reason to be proud of Sergeant Preston Medley for his service and sacrifice for freedom. While his passing is a tremendous loss for our country, his selfless service stands as a pillar of strength for us all. Vicki and I will keep Preston's entire family in our thoughts and prayers. I trust that all the people of Northwest Florida and our nation do the same.

THE FAIR AND SIMPLE TAX ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, virtually everyone is talking about the need for us to have a second economic stimulus package. From falling home prices to rising unemployment, there is no doubt that the economic volatility our nation has experienced over the past few months has caused great uncertainty and there are many needs that have to be met. As we seek to get our economy back on track, I am very proud to be introducing what I think is the closest thing to a panacea to the economic growth challenge that we are facing.

This plan, known as Fair and Simple Tax Act, or simply FAST, would cut the number of tax brackets in half, with three simple tax rates—10 percent on the first \$40,000 in income, 15 percent on incomes between \$40,000 and \$150,000 and 30 percent on any income above \$150,000, significantly reducing the burden on taxpayers at all income levels. Furthermore, it will dramatically simplify the tax filing process by creating a one-page tax form that implements the three-tier simplified marginal rate structure, while retaining many of the popular deductions, including mortgage interest, state and local taxes, charitable giving, the personal exemption and the child tax credit.

But the FAST Act is about much more than just lowering marginal tax rates for working families or making that April 15 deadline easier to meet each year. It's about getting our economy growing again and creating new opportunities. This bill reduces the capital gains rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, lowers the top corporate rate from 35 percent to 25 percent and permanently extends the research and development tax credit. These provisions will not only promote new economic growth, but they will also make the U.S. economy more competitive and help to provide the tax certainty that spurs investment and capital improvements.

The FAST Act will permanently end the death tax and will further index the alternative minimum tax (AMT) to inflation, ensuring that fewer taxpayers are impacted each year. It also permanently extends the 2001 and 2003 pro-growth tax cuts.

Finally, the FAST Act will enable Americans to better prepare for their future needs. This legislation creates three new, tax-free savings accounts: the Retirement Savings Account and the Lifetime Savings Account, both providing a \$5,000 tax-free contribution, and the Lifetime Skills Savings Account, which provides a \$1,000 tax-free contribution. Additionally, the FAST Act provides a \$7,500 tax deduction for individuals and a \$15,000 tax deduction for families who do not receive employer-sponsored health coverage. This expanded deduction will provide individuals and families with additional assistance to purchase healthcare and allows unspent funds to be allocated to a Health Savings Account (HSA). Each of these provisions will help Americans to secure their financial futures by saving for healthcare costs, continuing education and retirement.

Madam Speaker, our nation is facing a severe economic crisis that must be addressed

comprehensively. I believe that the FAST Act will go a long way toward providing the simplicity, fairness and clarity that are needed for long-term growth. As we consider economic stimulus proposals in the days and weeks ahead, I hope my colleagues will join me in pursuing this pro-growth reform agenda.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Greater Houston Partnership. I ask my colleagues and those visitors in the House Chamber to join me in congratulating the Greater Houston Partnership and applauding the many achievements they have accomplished over the past 20 years.

In 1989, the Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Economic Development Council and the Houston World Trade Center joined together to make the dream of an organization that would be an advocate for the business community in the greater Houston area a reality.

The Greater Houston Partnership has grown into an influential organization that now has two thousand member businesses and serves 10 fast growing counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller.

The Partnership has had an impressive impact on the region. In the last year, 53 percent of all jobs created in the United States were created in Texas—and one in four of those were in Houston. This is astounding and a testimony to the contributions the Greater Houston Partnership has made to cultivate a vibrant business environment. The Partnership's efforts are focused on building Houston's prosperity and promoting regional economic development. The Partnership is actively involved with public policy issues and works with local elected officials to ensure the Greater Houston community is well represented in areas such as clean air, education and transportation.

In its two decades of existence there is much to be proud of. It is an honor to recognize such an impressive organization. All Americans can learn from the collaborative example the Greater Houston Partnership continues to display through their leadership and guidance to the people and businesses in the Greater Houston community.

Madam Speaker, today more than ever, we must support the efforts of the Greater Houston Partnership and other similar organizations across the country. The work they do to help create jobs in our country is essential for continued economic growth and stability in the face of the global economic changes. I urge you to join me in congratulating the Greater Houston Partnership for 20 years of serving as the voice for the greater Houston business community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My bill makes pharmaceuticals more affordable to seniors by reducing their taxes. It also removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by federal regulation.

The first provision of my legislation provides seniors a tax credit equal to 80 percent of their prescription drug costs. While Congress did add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare in 2003, many seniors still have difficulty affording the prescription drugs they need in order to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. One reason is because the new program creates a "doughnut hole," where seniors lose coverage once their prescription expenses reach a certain amount and must pay for their prescriptions above a certain amount out of their own pockets until their expenses reach a level where Medicare coverage resumes. This tax credit will help seniors cover the expenses provided by the doughnut hole. This bill will also help seniors obtain prescription medicines that may not be covered by the Medicare prescription drug program.

In addition to making prescription medications more affordable for seniors, my bill lowers the price for prescription medicines by reducing barriers to the importation of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals. Under my bill, anyone wishing to import a drug simply submits an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the U.S. or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Madam Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I need not remind my colleagues that many senior citizens and other Americans impacted by the high costs of prescription medicine have demanded Congress reduce the barriers which prevent American consumers from purchasing imported pharmaceuticals. Congress has responded to these demands by repeatedly passing legislation liberalizing the rules governing the importation of pharmaceuticals. However, implementation of this provision has been blocked by the federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer and removed all unnecessary regulations on importing pharmaceuticals.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act also protects consumers' access to affordable medicine by forbidding the Federal Government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by state-licensed pharmacists.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the Federal

Government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on Web sites that sell pharmaceuticals. Any federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by lowering taxes on senior citizens, removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.

BAD POLLUTERS ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand here today to introduce this bipartisan legislation that will help protect the Great Lakes from harmful pollution that poisons our water and closes our beaches. The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than thirty million Americans. It is critical that we enhance our restoration efforts for this critical resource, not degrade the condition of the lakes even further.

In 2007, British Petroleum (BP) threatened to begin a billion-dollar expansion of its refinery facility in Whiting, Indiana which would have included a large increase of pollution into the Great Lakes. The company sought to discharge an increase of 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more sludge into Lake Michigan per day. This would have totaled a combined increase of more than 1,800 pounds per day of these pollutants which strangle aquatic life and contribute to the increasing number of beach closures each year.

Based on a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, BP was eligible for a tax credit that would have allowed them to expense half of the capital costs in the first year of the expansion. Essentially, the government would have paid the company to pollute our lakes. While providing incentives to energy production and refinery expansion helps to lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we must not do so at the expense of one of America's most treasured natural resources.

Fortunately, BP yielded to public pressure and chose not to move ahead with the expansion as planned. Due to the determination and cooperation of federal, state and local officials, environmental advocacy organizations and communities around the region, BP is now working with a coalition of scientists and small businesses to seek an environmentally friendly way to expand its refinery.

While I applaud BP for making the right decision in the end, we must ensure that no refinery ever comes as close to drastically harming our precious lakes. That is why I am introducing the Bad Polluters Act, which will deny the capital expensing tax credit to any refiner whose facility's NPDES permit allows for an increase in any pollutant above its 2006 levels into the Great Lakes. This will prevent companies from seeking to increase pollution into our